

1 CLAIMS

2 I claim:

3 ~~1. A method of assigning ownership of a peripheral~~  
4 ~~component interconnect (PCI) bus, the method including:~~

5 identifying a target requested by a master;

6 determining if data associated with the target is  
7 available; and8 assigning a priority to the master based on  
9 availability of the data.

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11 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein after the master  
12 requests a target, the master is assigned a MEDIUM  
13 priority.

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15 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein if the data is not  
16 available, then the master is assigned a LOW priority.

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18 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein if the data is  
19 available, then the master is assigned a HIGH priority.

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21 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the target uses  
22 delayed transactions to complete a read access.

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24 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the target  
25 integrates a buffer management scheme.

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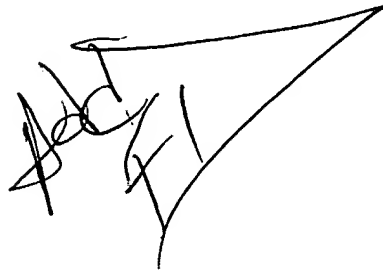
27 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the buffer  
28 management scheme includes an input/output cache.

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30 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein identifying a  
31 target includes sending a request signal from the master to  
32 an arbiter.

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2 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein assigning a  
3 priority includes sending a modified request signal to the  
4 arbiter.

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